

THE PULSE

OF THE NEW YORK HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES

APRIL 16, 1947

VOLUME IX

SCHOOL OF NURSING 70TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

NUMBER 2

WELCOME ALUMNAE

SEVENTY YEARS OF NURSING EDUCATION

by Virginia M. Dunbar

The year 1877 is memorable to us as the year in which this School of Nursing was founded. The School began with seven students. The first schools in the United States on the Nightingale pattern had been opened four years earlier. By 1880 there were 15 schools in the country with 323 students enrolled. There are now 1271 schools with 128,828 students. (This figure is of January 1946.) A history of this School against the background of what was happening in those years in nursing, in the education of women, in medical care and other humanitarian and scientific movements is perhaps something which we might hope to prepare before our next anniversary.



The period in which this School was opened coincided with the period in which some of our most prominent liberal arts colleges for women were being founded: Wellesley, 1870; Smith, 1871; Mills (California), 1877; Radcliffe, 1879; Goucher, 1885; Mount Holyoke, 1888 (it had begun as a "female seminary" in 1837); Barnard, 1889. Vassar and Elmira had opened even earlier. Some institutions with men students had admitted women before the '70's, notably Oberlin, Antioch and the University of Iowa. Co-education began to take on national scope in 1870 when several state universities opened their doors to qualified women. When the School of Nursing opened in The New York Hospital, Cornell University in Ithaca was also a new insti-

(Continued on Page 2)



(Continued from Page 1)

tution. Its charter was signed by the Governor of the State on April 27, 1865 and its first students were admitted in 1868. Women were included with men in Ezra Cornell's plan for the university, although the cornerstone for the first women's dormitory was not laid until 1873.

The two movements—the beginning of nursing education and the broadening of opportunities for a liberal arts education for women took place at the same time. Since then, however, they have taken independent paths which have not yet been brought into definite and generally accepted relationship with each other. By far the greatest majority of the young women in the schools of nursing of the country have had no benefit of the opportunities for a liberal arts education. Yet such an education is considered an essential part of the preparation for all professions. Also, by far the greatest majority are in schools which have no connection with the great universities of the country. And this is in spite of the fact that the early schools of nursing attracted the type of young women who today attend colleges and universities almost without exception.

As compared with the 176 years of The New York Hospital, the history of this school with its 70 years is short indeed. This Hospital had carried on over a hundred years before the "training school" opened, and over 170 years before the school was associated with a university.

To read the history of the Society of The New York Hospital as a participant in its present program is to gain a sense of being a partner in a great undertaking to which generations of individuals have contributed their best through thinking and working together, intent on a great purpose. The spirit of the founders of the Hospital and, more recently, of the founders of the School is something we can be proud to carry on. As faculty, staff, alumnae, and students, we find in this a common bond. Our ability to carry forward the great spirit of the past will depend upon the preparation which we bring to our work today.



UNIFORMS FROM 1882 TO 1947

The authentically-garbed dolls, shown above, display the uniforms worn by students of this School of Nursing since 1877 and were made especially for the 60th Anniversary celebration of the School. Originally, nurses were to model the uniforms at the celebration, but after finding this to be impractical, Bertha Lehmkuhl, '12, hit upon the idea of using dolls, which were selected by Marie Troup, '26. Using old photos to insure authenticity, Mary Gardini, Hospital seamstress, made the miniature costumes. Mrs. Stella Cole, sister of one of our graduates, Jessie L. De Freest, '99, made the caps. Emma Benz, '94, and Miss Lehmkuhl made the accessories.

From left to right, the dolls model uniforms worn in 1882, 1887, 1907, 1927, 1917, and 1937. The student wears the present temporary blue check which has been a substitute for the now-unobtainable blue plaid.

\$28,000 GRANTED FOR NURSING STUDY

On April 9, the Carnegie Corporation of New York announced that it has made a gift of \$28,000 to finance an intensive study of the registered nurse's real duties and the changes in education that are required. This is the first grant ever made by the Foundation in the field of nursing.

Dr. Estelle Lucile Brown, director of the Department of Studies in the Professions of the Russell Sage Foundation, will make the study for the National Nursing Council, representing fourteen professional organizations.

The study will focus on the problem: "How should a basic professional nursing school be organized, administered, controlled and financially supported to prepare its graduates adequately to meet the community needs?"

SOME DATES OF IMPORTANCE

1877—A nurses' training school was established at The New York Hospital "with the double purpose of securing a corps of nurses superior to those usually employed in public institutions, and of giving young women desirous of devoting themselves to that specialty the opportunity for education therein." The first class consisted of seven students and lasted for eighteen months.

1885—The first textbook on nursing written by a nurse in this country was published by Clara S. Weeks, graduate of The New York Hospital School of Nursing, class of '80.

1890—The "training period" for nurses became a two year course.

1891—A Nurses' Residence was opened, with a single room for each nurse.

1893—Irene Sutcliffe organized the School Alumnae Association.

1896—The New York Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae Association was one of the founder members of the Nurses Associated Alumnae (later named the American Nurses' Association).

1918—An affiliation was arranged with Willard Parker Hospital for an elective course in communicable disease nursing and with Bloomingdale Hospital (now the Westchester Division of The New York Hospital) as a requirement in psychiatric nursing.

1925—An affiliation was arranged with Henry Street Visiting Nurse Service for Public Health Nursing experience.

1929—The Board of Governors of the Hospital appointed a committee of the Alumnae with Mary Beard, '03, as chairman and Ethel Johns, director of studies, to review the needs of the School in the light of the advancing trends in nursing education and to make recommendations for reorganization on the basis of their findings.

1932—A reorganization of the curriculum offered in the School of Nursing, based on recommendations of the committee appointed in 1929, was effected with the transfer of the School and Hospital to the present location.

The School's first student government organization was formed.

1937—The School celebrated its 60th Anniversary.

1942—The School became an integral part of Cornell University under the name Cornell University-New York Hospital School of Nursing. Two years of college work approved by Cornell University was required for admission. Upon satisfactory completion of the nursing course, the degree of Bachelor of Science in Nursing is granted by Cornell University.

1943—The first students received their Cornell degrees.

1946—The first class was admitted in which all students met the requirement of two years of college.

A Council for the School was appointed under the statutes of Cornell University.

1947—The School celebrated its 70th Anniversary.

GRADUATE OF '96 FLIES TO ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Anne A. Williamson, former Director of Nursing and presently Director of Social Service at the California Hospital, Los Angeles, California, has flown here to attend the 70th Anniversary celebrations of this School of Nursing, from which she graduated in 1896.

Miss Williamson has put in fifty years of nursing, twenty-two years of social service, four years of Army nursing in two wars (not including World War II), and has taken time out to win an aviation medal and to become a prize-winning radio star.

The day after the destruction of the battleship "Maine" in Havana Harbor in 1898, Miss Williamson volunteered, joining a group of nurses in New York. She was enrolled in the famous auxiliary No. 3 of the American Red Cross, headed by Mrs. Whitelaw Reid, which was organized for the express purpose of recruiting nurses for the emergency at Camp Chickamauga. There the soldiers were in deplorable condition, ill with typhoid, which was unrestricted by science at that time. She served for the duration of the Spanish-American War.

In 1907, after caring for one patient for a period of three years, Miss Williamson felt she deserved a holiday and went to Los Angeles to visit her mother. At the end of two weeks she was appointed Night Superintendent of the California Hospital, and two months later was elected Director of Nursing, a position she held until 1925. Since that time she has been in charge of the Social Service Department for the Hospital.

Miss Williamson is currently writing a biography of her nursing life which will concern in part her experiences at this school.

DR. OLIVER C. CARMICHAEL

TO SPEAK AT ANNIVERSARY

The Cornell University-New York Hospital School of Nursing has been most fortunate in securing Dr. Oliver C. Carmichael, president of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, as the principal speaker at the dinner meeting of its 70th Anniversary celebration.

Dr. Carmichael received his A.B. and A.M. degrees from the University of Alabama, and studied at Oxford University, England, as a Rhodes Scholar from Alabama, receiving his B.Sc. and a diploma in anthropology in 1917.

In 1914 he became a member of the Hoover Relief Commission to Belgium. In 1915 he served with the British army in India and was an honorary captain with the British army in East Africa in 1916. In 1917 Dr. Carmichael won the Proctor fellowship to Princeton, but resigned it to enlist in the American army upon this country's entrance into World War I, first serving as an infantryman and later with the Intelligence Section of the General staff.

Dr. Carmichael taught in high schools in Alabama, and in 1922 became dean and assistant to the president of Alabama College. In 1926 he succeeded to the presidency of the college, which position he held until 1935. At that time he became dean of the graduate school and senior college at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. He was chancellor of that university from 1937 to 1946.

Dr. Carmichael is a member of numerous educational associations and committees and holds honorary degrees from the University of Alabama, Howard College, Southwestern University, University of the South, Duke University and Birmingham Southern College.

He has been associated with the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching since 1938, serving on the board of trustees before becoming president of the organization in 1946.

AN APPLICATION TO THE SCHOOL IN 1879

In January, 1885, the first nursing textbook to be written by a nurse in this country was published. It was written by Clara S. Weeks, who had graduated from The New York Hospital School of Nursing in 1880. The book had 58 printings which ran into well over 100,000 copies.

For many years it was the only such book available, and nurses here and elsewhere would rush into class asking, "Have you your 'Weeks'?"

Clara Weeks had previously graduated from the Rhode Island Normal School and had taught for two years before she made up her mind to become a nurse. A little of the general attitude toward nursing in that era is reflected in Miss Weeks' experience. During her days in "training" her mother addressed all letters to her daughter in care of an aunt who lived at the Park Avenue Hotel. Mrs. Weeks explained that if people knew her daughter was in a hospital they would be sure she had some terrible disease.

Clara Weeks' letter of application, written to Eliza Walson Brown, who was Directress of the School from January, 1879 to December, 1881, is still of interest today, 68 years later.

"Kingston, R. I.

Feb. 14, 1879

"Dear Madam:

Mrs. Marvin, who has spoken to you about my desire to enter the Training School under your charge, suggests that I write to you myself about it. Perhaps we may so come to a better understanding than through a third party. I can hardly tell whether I have an especial vocation for the work, for I have had absolutely no experience in sickness, but it has a strong attraction for me as offering a wider field for usefulness and a better opportunity for actual *work* than any other. The prospect of constant and absorbing employment invites rather than deters me. I am only just 22, (this month), which is, I suppose, as well as utter inexperience, a disadvantage but I can bring the task perfect health, a deep interest in it, and a strong desire to learn.

If these can counterbalance the objections, I shall be glad to fill the vacancy which Mrs. Marvin tells me is likely to occur. If you think there is sufficient chance of my being accepted, I will come to New York and see you myself. A personal interview would of course give you a better knowledge of me, and of my fitness for the position than any description. The application blank I filled and returned to Mrs. Marvin some days ago. I think I fully understand the labor and disagreeables involved, but have sufficient enthusiasm without romance to carry me through. So I hope to be allowed at least to make a trial of it.

Yours sincerely,

Signed: CLARA S. WEEKS,

Kingston, Rhode Island"



MINNIE H. JORDAN



ANNIE W. GOODRICH



BESSIE A. R. PARKER

DIRECTORS OF THE SCHOOL
1877-1947

Juliet E. Marchand	1877-1878	Ida Nudel (Acting)	1902	Minnie H. Jordan	1916-1931
Jane A. Sangster	1878	(5 months)		Anna D. Wolf	1932-1940
(2 months)		Annie W. Goodrich	1902-1907	Bessie A. R. Parker	1940-1942
Eliza Watson Brown	1879-1881	Lottie Bushnell (Acting)	1907	Bessie A. R. Parker	1942-1946
Zilpha E. Whitaker	1882-1885	(3 months)		(Acting)	
Irene H. Sutcliffe	1886-1902	Adeline Henderson	1907-1915	Virginia M. Dunbar	1946-
		Bertha H. Lehmkuhl	1915-1916		
		(Acting)			



ANNA D. WOLF



VIRGINIA M. DUNBAR

Hospi - Tales

(A Roster of Some of Our Alumnae)

Adele Hodson, '78, graduate of the first class of this Nursing School, is now retired and is living in New York City.

Ida and Irene H. Sutcliffe, twin sisters, class of '80. Irene founded Long Island College Hospital School of Nursing and was succeeded by Ida when the former returned to the training school for nurses in the New York Hospital as superintendent of nurses in 1886. Irene organized nurses at Camp Black in the Spanish-American War and a hospital in New York during the infantile paralysis epidemic in 1915. Both are deceased.

Clara Weeks Shaw, '80, was the author of a textbook of nursing. Written in 1885, it was used exclusively as a nursing text by nurses for many years. She is deceased.

Lillian B. Wald, '91, founded Henry Street Settlement and later became its president. She was the author of "The House on Henry Street" and "Windows on Henry Street." She is deceased.

Annie W. Goodrich, '92, was superintendent of nurses of our School and many others. She founded the Army School of Nursing and Yale University School of Nursing. She was past president of the International Council of Nurses. She became inspector of nurse training schools in the State of New York. Author of "The Social and Ethical Significance of Nursing," she is now retired.

Mary Vroom, '96, was superintendent of nurses in several hospitals, was active in public health and private duty nursing. She was Chief Nurse of The New York Hospital Unit No. 9 in World War I and is now retired.

Lydia E. Anderson, '97, was a pioneer visiting-instructor in thirty-two hospitals in New York and its vicinity. She taught many subjects in this, her own School, for twenty-six consecutive years. She was a member and president of the State Board of Nurse Examiners in the State of New York. The Cornell University-New York Hospital School

of Nursing reference library is named for her and she served on its committee. She is deceased.

Anne A. Williamson, '96, who has flown here from California to be at the Anniversary, is now director of Social Service at the California Hospital in Los Angeles. She was formerly Director of Nursing at that hospital.

Anna B. Duncan, '97, a pioneer industrial nurse, was in charge of the Red Cross House during the first World War.

Hannah L. Josephi, '01, Director of the Social Service Department at The New York Hospital for twenty-five years, has retired.

Minnie H. Jordan, '02, organized the school of nursing at French Hospital and was Director of Nursing at The New York Hospital from 1916-1932. She was also Social Director of the Welfare Department of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company.

Mary Beard, '03, was Director of the Nursing Association of Boston and Associate Director of the International Health Division of the Rockefeller Foundation. She was Director of the American Red Cross Nursing Service and author of "The Nurse in Public Health". Her recent death has been noted in the Alumnae News.

Anna L. Reutinger, '04, now retired, was Superintendent of Nurses at Lying-In Hospital and later of St. Mary's Hospital in New York City.

Alice C. Ellison, '05, was Assistant in the Training School Office at New York Hospital, later Superintendent of Nurses at Vassar Hospital. She was Superintendent of Campbell Cottages from 1908 to 1932 and is now retired.

Florence M. Johnson, '08, was Chief Nurse of the Cornell Medical Clinic. She was in charge of the Nursing Division of the American Red Cross during the First and Second World Wars and it is the position she still holds.

Julia C. Stimson, '08, was Superintendent of Nurses in several schools. Her outstanding work was accomplished during World Wars I and II when she succeeded Miss Goodrich as Superintendent of the Army School of Nursing. She was Superintendent of the Army Nurse

Corps and the first woman to hold the rank of Major in the U. S. Army. Author of "Nurses' Handbook of Drugs and Solutions" and "Finding Themselves", she is now retired.

Louise Zabriskie, '13, became supervisor in the Lying-In Hospital. She was field director of the Maternity Center Association and the author of "Handbook of Obstetrics for Nurses" and "Mother and Baby Care in Pictures". At present, she is Field Director of the Maternity Consultation Service in New York City.

Myrtle A. Pelly, '17, has been a mission nurse in British South Africa and Portuguese East Africa ever since her graduation.

Marie L. Troup, '26, was in the Social Service Department of The New York Hospital, until she became Superintendent at Campbell Cottages. She was Chief Nurse of our unit, 9th General Hospital, World War II. She is now in industrial nursing at R. H. Macy & Company.

Elizabeth and Katherine Halsted, '36, were the only other twins to graduate from the school beside the Misses Sutcliffe. Both have served on the staff at The New York Hospital and were overseas with the 9th General Hospital. Katherine won the student contest which gave the school yearbook, THE BLUE PLAID, its name. Elizabeth is now assistant to the Director of Nursing at Flower Fifth Avenue and Katherine is doing industrial nursing at Saks Fifth Avenue.

Muriel R. Carbery, '37, was Instructor in Nursing Arts at The New York Hospital School of Nursing. She served overseas with our Unit and is now in charge of the Private Patients' Pavilion.

Rosalind MacLean, '37 was Chief Nurse of the 81st Station Hospital which served in Tunisia and Italy. She was in charge of the Cadet Program at Tilton General Hospital, and she is now Instructor in Nursing Arts in our School.

Betty Ogden, '44, served in China with U.N.R.R.A.

Helen Fedde, '46, was the first New York Hospital graduate to enter the Frontier Nursing Service.